

C100

## UNIVERSITIES

The three great centers of learning were Rome, Alexandria, and Athens. In these cities there were universities, as we should call them now, with vast libraries and numerous professorships. The early Ptolemies in Egypt had begun such foundations at Alexandria. Augustus followed their example at Athens, from his private fortune. Vespasian was the first to pay salaries from the public treasury; and Marcus Aurelius began the practice of permanent state endowments.

that is, the government gave large sums of money or valuable property, the income of which was to be used for the support of the institution receiving the gift, - as with our national land grants to state universities.

The professors had the rank of Senators, with good salaries, and with assured pensions after 20 yrs of service. At Rome there were ten chairs of Latin Grammar (language and literary criticism); ten of Greek; three of Rhetoric, which included law and politics; and three of Philosophy, which included logic. These represent the three chief studies (the trivium) - language, rhetoric, and philosophy.

There was also a group of mathematical studies, - music, arithmetic, geometry, astronomy (the quadrivium). (When Roman numerals were used, arithmetic could not be an elementary study. Try to multiply  $xliv$  by  $xix$ ). In some universities special studies flourished. Thus, law was a specialty at Rome, and medicine at Alexandria.